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**Review of Is utopianism a threat to our grand experiment in democracy? Review of Ameritopia: The Unmaking of America by Mark R. Levin New York: Threshold Editions, 2012. \$26.99 ISBN: 978-1439173244**

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Is utopianism a threat to our grand experiment in democracy?  
Review of *Ameritopia: The Unmaking of America* by Mark R. Levin  
New York: Threshold Editions, 2012. \$26.99  
ISBN: 978-1439173244

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Mark R. Levin's *Ameritopia: The Unmaking of America* should be considered the best of the crop of 2012's popular politically themed works. I will admit that I am a political junkie. I read almost everything that comes off the press in what I call the pop-political genre whether it is produced by the left, right, or center. Levin's work stands out from the rest of this year's offerings because it relies upon a philosophical and scholarly look at the works of numerous political luminaries. This is unusual for a genre that normally operates at a sixth grade "he said she said" level of argument.

Levin's premise is that "Tyranny, broadly defined, is the use of power to dehumanize the individual and delegitimize his nature. Political utopianism is tyranny disguised as a desirable, workable, and even paradisiacal governing ideology." He then embarks on a grand tour of political theory to support his premise. It is this grand tour of some of the heavy hitters of political philosophy that make Levin's work stand out. His exploration of Plato's *Republic*, Thomas More's *Utopia*, Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* and Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto* as the means to support and illustrate his premise make this a truly thought provoking book. Levin also brings the writings of Charles De Montesquieu and Alexis De Tocqueville into play. This book is worth the read if only to serve as a refresher on the luminaries listed above.

Mark R. Levin holds a J.D. from Temple University Law School, has authored several best sellers, and hosts a nationally syndicated talk show. Despite his direct and bombastic on-air presence, his writing is calm, reasoned, and clear. Levin exhibits critical thinking skills that are sadly lacking in many parts of modern political discourse. In a mere 248 pages he manages to juxtapose the works of numerous famous political philosophers with what he observes is happening in our own political realm today. He accomplishes this in a reasoned manner, setting out his arguments in a very clear, concise, and logical style. If you are looking for political name-calling and bomb throwing, this book is not for you. If you are interested in politics or political theory, this book should be on your shelf.